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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Event: Interview of FBI Special Agent Chris Mamula**Type of event:** Interview**Dates:** January 28, 2004**Special Access Issues:** None**Prepared by:** Michael Jacobson

9/11 Law Enforcement Privacy

Team Number: 1A**Location:** FBI, Washington Field Office**Participants – Non-Commission:** Assistant General Counsel Bob Sinton**Participants – Commission:** John Tamm, Marco Cordero, Michael Jacobson

Mamula joined the FBI on August 15, 1999. Prior to that, he was an officer with the Air Force Office of Special Investigations. He left the Air Force as a captain. He was the case agent on the Agus Budiman investigation. [REDACTED] was the previous case agent.

Budiman's name came on the radar because Binalshib had used Budiman's name in one of his visa applications. The FBI personnel in Germany were the ones to discover this. They forwarded it to WFO, since Budiman had a Washington address. WFO was able to track him down and interview him. They quickly realized that he was out of status. During the interview, Budiman stated that at some point in 2000 he had a visitor named Belfas. He assisted Belfas in a scam with the Virginia DMV to get Belfas a license. As a result of this admission, they arrested Budiman.

The investigation was originally worked out of PENTTBOM. They wanted to open a subfile on Budiman, but they ended up just working it out of the PENTTBOM case. Jim Fitzgerald was his HQ PENTTBOM point of contact.

Budiman was living with his brother in Maryland at the time that they first interviewed him. Prior to that, he was splitting his time between DC and Virginia. The Washington DC address utilized by binalshib was actually Budiman's brother's address. Budiman would often come and stay with his brother at this apartment, even for months at a time. The FBI investigated Budiman's brother briefly, but he got an attorney. Budiman and his brother were not close, and this investigation of his brother washed out pretty early.

During the interview, Budiman said that he ran into binalshib in a Frankfurt train station. Binalshib mentioned that he was thinking about coming to the US to visit. Budiman gave

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him a business card which had the Mass Ave address on it. Budiman really wanted to live in the U.S, and to get rich in real estate. In fact, on his business card, he referred to himself as a "real estate investor." Ziad Jarrah also used Budiman's address on his visa application. He wrote on his application that his US point of contact was Budiman, "real estate investor," which made them think that Jarrah just copied the information on Budiman's business card. According to Aaron Zebley of the PENTTBOM team, binalshib confirmed Budiman's story in a debriefing.

Budiman said that he ran into binalshib in 1999 or 2000. Budiman certainly knew the members of the Hamburg cell. He was closest to Belfas, though he knew Atta and binalshib as well. He was at Belfas's house a few times when the others were visiting. Budiman also worked at Hays Computers with binalshib and Atta. Budiman said in his interview that he didn't like them. He stated that he was not surprised that binalshib was involved with the September 11, 2001, attacks. He was then asked by the FBI why, if those were his feelings about them, would he give binalshib his business card? He didn't have a good answer to this question. Budiman was aware that binalshib hated the U.S. He was asked by the FBI, given binalshib's feelings about the U.S., didn't he think that it was strange that binalshib wanted to visit? Budiman did not really have an answer to this question.

Budiman went to several mosques in Hamburg. The Arabs, Indonesians, and Africans would attend separate mosques. There was a group of 5-6 Indonesians in Hamburg who hung out, and this group all revolved around Belfas.

Budiman left Indonesia right after high school, though he has been back there a few times since. Since that time, he has spent his time primarily in Frankfurt, Hamburg, and the U.S. He received his BA and completed part of his masters degree studies in Germany. The German government has a program where they provide free schooling and funding to individuals from Indonesia.

He had visited the U.S. on a number of occasions, beginning in about 1998. Budiman came into the U.S. on a tourist visa. He got a job with Take out Taxi, and they applied for an H1B visa for him.

Budiman was able to get Belfas and Atta jobs at Hays. His boss was not pleased. He had told Budiman in the past that he didn't like Arabs, and didn't like having all of these Arabs working there. Despite this, when the boss went on a trip, Budiman managed to bring Belfas and Atta on board. When the boss returned, they had a big fight about this.

Belfas was in the U.S. for about a month. In Mamula's view, if there's a story in this investigation it's related to Belfas, and his trip to the U.S. While he was in the U.S., Budiman was showing him around. Belfas insisted that he get a U.S. driver's license. Budiman argued with him, saying that he needed to work, and couldn't take him to the DMV. Belfas insisted, saying that he wanted a driver's license as a souvenir. Budiman relented and took him to the Virginia DMV, but he failed the written test. Instead, he received a Virginia state ID card. Belfas was not happy with this, and insisted that he

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needed a driver's license. Mamula made the point that Belfas did not actually need a license, because he was allowed to drive in the U.S. with his international driver's license. Budiman agreed to take Belfas to the DMV again, and this time Belfas passed the test. Budiman was unable to explain to the FBI why it was that Belfas wanted a driver's license so badly. In Mamula's opinion, there was no legitimate reason why Belfas should have needed a U.S. driver's license. His investigative hunch was that Belfas was coming to see how easy it was to get one (implying that perhaps he was doing advance scouting for the Hamburg hijackers, who applied for and received Virginia driver's licenses later on). Belfas was the only individual whom Budiman assisted in getting a driver's license.

As far as why Virginia specifically, Mamula thought that it was known that it was easy to get a driver's license from Virginia. In fact, Budiman said that while he was in Germany, it was well known that you could get a driver's license in Virginia. You could come to the U.S., not even be a resident of Virginia, and still get a license.

The only other interesting thing that Belfas did while in the U.S. was meet with Abdulrahman Alamoudi. He went to him to appeal for money, which he didn't get. Belfas viewed Alamoudi as one of the Muslim leaders in the U.S. Budiman had met Alamoudi at the Dar al Hijra mosque. After 9/11, he approached Alamoudi at a conference in Virginia and told him the FBI was harassing him, and asking for legal advice.

Budiman did not know Alrababah or [redacted] to Mamula's knowledge. Budiman did attend the Dar al Hijra mosque, however, at least every Friday. Budiman's boss at Take Out Taxi allowed him to adjust his hours so that he could go to Friday prayers. Mamula does not think that Budiman has any relationship to Aulaqi. There have been no meetings or contact that he knows of. Budiman hung out mostly with the Indonesians from the mosque. [redacted] was one of his associates from the mosque. There were a lot of calls between the two. Since Budiman departed, his name has been surfacing over and over in FBI investigations. His name keeps on popping up, as someone who has been in contact with current subjects.

Budiman's name also surfaced in the investigation of Hamad Abdurakim, one of the 11 Virginia Jihad members. Abdurakim, who was also from Indonesia, approached Budiman in 2000 because he wanted to learn martial arts. He asked whether Budiman would attend the Dar al Arqam mosque with him. Budiman refused because in Indonesia, this name has Salafi connotations. This was not the kind of place that he wanted to go. After Budiman departed the U.S., there has been at least one occasion when Abdurakim has been in email contact with him. He also visited Budiman while Budiman was in jail after September 11th.

Mamula thinks that Budiman was a "dupe" for the Hamburg cell members. He knew that they were bad guys, and he was upset with them for putting him in this position. The FBI didn't determine that there were any phone calls between Budiman and individuals in Hamburg after Belfas left the U.S. Belfas came to the U.S. with Budiman. There were

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no telephone calls required to arrange this visit. Mamula does not think that Budiman returned to Germany after this time.

Mamula has not seen any contact between Budiman and Saudi officials. He did have contact with the Indonesian Embassy. He and Belfas went to the Indonesian Embassy on one occasion when the Ambassador had an open reception for Indonesian nationals.

Overall, to Mamula, the big question in this is Belfas. He's way too involved not to have had any knowledge of what the hijackers were up to. Belfas was at the social center of the Hamburg scene. He hung out at the "Arab table" in Hamburg, and not with the Indonesians.

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